

10/698,336
112-0128USIN THE DRAWING FIGURE

The Office Action objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because the reference number 38 was used in the drawings without being mentioned in the written description.

Proposed replacement sheets for Figures 1, 2 and 5 with reference number 38 deleted are attached hereto as an appendix for consideration by the Examiner.

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112-0128US**REMARKS**

The Office Action objected to the drawings because they include the reference number 38 which is not mentioned in the description. Replacement sheets containing Figures 1, 2 and 5 with reference number 38 deleted are submitted herewith.

The Office Action rejected claims 1 – 3, 5 – 9, 14 – 18 and 20 under §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. Re. 34,254 to Dragoon.

Each of the independent claims (1, 14, 15 and 16) requires “a plurality of interior walls defining chambers open on their bottom surface and front surface....”

Dragoon does not disclose a light reflector having interior walls.

The Office Action cites Figures 4 and 5 of Dragoon for providing a plurality of interior walls. However, neither of these figures shows any interior walls and no suggestion of interior walls is made in the written description of Dragoon. Thus, Dragoon does not anticipate Applicant’s claimed invention.

The Office Action rejected claims 16, 17 and 21 under §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,790,041 to Lee.

Claim 16 (and its dependent claims 17 and 21) are to a light reflector having “a plurality of interior walls defining chambers open on their bottom surface and front surface said interior walls connected on their top portion to the top and connected on their rear portion to the back wall and having their bottom portions generally coplanar with the bottom edge of the back wall.”

The jack panel described in Lee is not open on its bottom surface. “Housing 300 has a bottom surface 305 on which is formed at least one leg 311 that is mounted on top

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surface 241 of printed circuit board 210.” [col. 2; lines 52-54] See also Figure 3B. Accordingly, Lee does not anticipate the light reflector claimed in claim 16.

The Office Action rejected claims 4, 10 – 13 and 19 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dragoon in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,008,658 to Russay et al.

Neither Dragoon nor Russay discloses or suggests a structure having a “plurality of interior walls” as required by each of these claims.

Applicant’s invention is specifically directed to preventing the light from adjacent LEDs from bleeding over into the adjoining indicators on an indicator panel. In the light collector depicted in Figure 5 of Dragoon, the use of lenses 16 each having light collecting surface 38 obviates the need for interior walls which serve to prevent light from adjacent LEDs from bleeding over. In contradistinction to Applicant’s invention, Russay describes a light housing designed to combine the light from a plurality of LEDs in order to backlight an LCD display without “hot spots.” “A still further object of the present invention is to provide an LCD/LED display arrangement wherein virtually all of the light produced by a plurality of LEDs is projected onto the rear surface of an LCD display in providing efficient backlighting therefor.” [col. 2; lines 11-15] Accordingly, one skilled in the art would not be led to use the teachings of either Dragoon or Russay to reach Applicant’s invention.

The Office Action contends that Russay “teaches interior walls (46, Fig.3).” However, element 46 of Russay is not an interior wall; it is part of the top of the domed light housing. “[T]he inner surface of the upper curvilinear panel 46 eliminates ‘hot spots’ on the LCD display 14 when viewed from the front...” [col. 5; lines 7-9]

None of the references cited in the Office Action describes a light reflector having a plurality of interior walls defining chambers open on their bottom surface and front surface.

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Claims 10 – 13 require light reflector comprising “a generally planar support surface connected to and extending between a pair of adjacent interior walls” and “a mounting stud on the support surface for attaching the light reflector to a printed circuit board.” The mounting stud is “on the support surface” – i.e., an integral part of the support surface. Threaded mounting pins 38 described in Russay are separate from the domed light housing: “Inserted through the aforementioned aligned apertures for securely attaching the second PC board 30 to the planar, rear portion of the lower housing 60 are a plurality of threaded mounting pins 38.” [col. 4; lines 6-10] There is no teaching or suggestion in Russay of incorporating mounting studs on the domed light structure itself. Thus, there is nothing in the teachings of Russay to lead one of ordinary skill in the art to the invention claimed in claims 10 – 13.

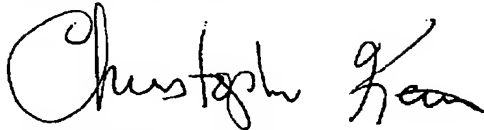
All of the pending claims require “a plurality of interior walls defining chambers open on their bottom surface and front surface said interior walls connected on their top portion to the segmented top and connected on their rear portion to the back wall and having their bottom portions generally coplanar with the bottom of the back wall.” No such feature is described in any of the references cited in the Office Action.

In rejecting claims 7 – 9 and 21 under §103(a), the Office Action contends that “the virgin color of common polycarbonates is black.” Applicant traverses this contention. Polycarbonate is a synthetic thermoplastic resin that is transparent (90% light transmission) in its virgin state. *Hawley’s Condensed Chemical Dictionary*, 14th Edition, p. 892.

For the above-stated reasons, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance over the references cited in the Office Action. Reconsideration of the rejection is requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher Keirs". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christopher" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Keirs".

Christopher D. Keirs
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